Scoring Process for AIMS Writing

All AIMS Writing is scored using the Six Trait Rubric.

The test contractor for AIMS scores the AIMS DPA and AIMS HS writing. This process begins with teams of 3 Arizona teachers for each grade level creating anchor sets with exemplar papers identified at each score point for each trait. The range finding (anchor selection) teams work closely with testing contractor facilitators to establish training papers, qualification papers, and score point exemplars that will be used to train the readers who will score Arizona papers. Each paper identified is annotated with exact language from the Six Trait Rubric. Arizona teachers designate which papers are used in training, ensuring that each is representative of t he trait and score point it represents. The grade level Writing Standard is also consulted for clarification.

To ensure that the expectations for writing are valid and reliable, Arizona educators also perform both vertical (grade-by-grade) and horizontal (score point 1 – 6 in each trait across the grade level) alignments on the anchor sets. While this process is tedious and time-consuming, it is the best way to maintain integrity in scoring Arizona student writing on AIMS.

Codes: Papers are assigned codes if they fit the following criteria.

> A= a blank paper
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> B= an illegible paper
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> C= a non-English paper
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> D= an off-topic paper

Papers that are coded B, C, or D are not scored and receive a zero (0) score in all traits. Blank papers, coded A, are considered an empty set and receive no score, not even a zero (0).

Please note that there is no code for off-mode papers. Although each prompt is written to represent an application from Strand 3, any on-topic response is scored.